

# NEWS RELEASE



*Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Louisiana*

**DONALD W. WASHINGTON**  
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## **HOUSTON MAN SENTENCED FOR HEALTHCARE FRAUD**

***Defendant represented himself as a medical doctor -  
never graduated from medical school***

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . MICHAEL PRINCE, age 48, from Houston, Texas, was sentenced last week to 41 months federal imprisonment to be followed by 3 years supervised release by United States District Judge Richard T. Haik for health care fraud, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington. PRINCE must also pay restitution in the amount of \$584,710.41.

PRINCE was indicted in August 2003 following an investigation by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Baton Rouge office. A jury deliberated for three hours in October 2006 before returning a guilty verdict against PRINCE.

PRINCE was part owner of Alpha Healthcare Services, Inc. (Alpha) with Pamela Sampson, who was part owner and administrator of Alpha. Alpha was a physical rehabilitation/medicine clinic which operated in Opelousas, Louisiana and was a Medicare provider.

From October 2000 through April 2001, PRINCE represented himself as a medical doctor and prescribed physical therapy for all of the patients who were treated by Alpha. PRINCE resided in Houston, Texas, and would fax the prescriptions and treatment plan to the clinic. PRINCE never signed the prescription and never met with any of the patients. He prescribed the therapy without ever examining them. Furthermore, evidence at trial revealed that PRINCE attended medical school but never graduated. He did not have a medical license.

ALPHA submitted claims to Medicare using the clinic's Medicare Provider Number and a physician's Medicare Provider Number. On the claims submitted to Medicare, ALPHA stated the services were rendered "incident to" a physician's supervision. However, the physician was not involved in rendering or supervising the services being provided at ALPHA's clinic. ALPHA used the Medicare Provider Number of two physicians without the physicians' permission or knowledge.

Further, the services billed to Medicare exceeded the actual services rendered to the patient. ALPHA submitted inflated claims to Medicare. Alpha Healthcare Services, Inc., received payments from Medicare in an amount in excess of \$500,000. During this time period, MICHAEL PRINCE AND HIS FAMILY paid themselves over \$200,000.00 in consulting fees. These consulting fees were paid with the monies received from Medicare as part of the fraudulent scheme.

PAMELA SAMPSON was sentenced in December 2006 to five years probation and restitution of \$584,710.41.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated, "Healthcare fraud leads to patient harm and sometimes death, damages our healthcare system, and causes everyone to pay more for healthcare services. This defendant was a common criminal who was looting the system to enrich himself without regard to a patient's health. This office will continue to relentlessly pursue these techno-age criminals."

“The Office of Inspector General will continue to aggressively investigate those who defraud the Medicare system. Greed, at the expense of our most vulnerable citizens will not be tolerated,” said Timothy J. Menke, Special Agent In Charge, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sentencing in federal court is governed by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelly P. Uebinger.